CUBA
CAPITAL AND COUNTRY

A Monthly Magazine — Price 5 Cents

OCTOBER, 1909

Special Features

PINEAPPLES — Page 4
Facts and Figures concerning Cuba's Crop, Shipping Expenses and the New Tariff

TRADE MARK AND PATENT LAW — 9
Important Article by Wright & Durant, Counsellors at Law

ISLE OF PINES — 12
Physical Features of "The Gem of the Caribbean"

TOBACCO PAR EXCELLENCE — Page 16
The First Printed Explanation of the Accepted Classifications of Cuban Tobacco. Very Valuable Tabulation Prepared Especially for this Publication

LIVE STOCK IN PINAR DEL RIO — 18
Statistics Showing Increase of Cattle in the West

TOBACCO IN CUBA — 19
The Rise of Vuelta Abajo and the Modernization of the Industry,—data presented for the first time in English

Columbus' Landing Place

ISLE OF PINES

"When the Admiral (Christopher Columbus) was setting out on his second voyage (1493), with seventeen ships, the King and the Queen (of Spain) charged him particularly that as soon as he possibly could he should continue his discoveries, especially of Cuba, which at that time was supposed to be the continent; he was ordered to discover as much more mainland and as many islands as he could, in order to forestall the King of Portugal . . . .

"Coasting along the (south) coast (of Cuba), he met with continuous and heavy rain storms, with thunder and lightning. At the same time he came on many shoals and was in continual fear of going aground . . . .

"Finally he determined to return to Hayti . . . . To provide himself with water and what he might of food, he put in (June, 1494) at an island some thirty leagues in circumference, which he had named the Evangelist . . . .

"This Isle of the Evangelist was the same, I think, which we called, later, and still call, the Isle of Pines."—Fray Bartolome de las Casas, *Historia de las Indias*, I., xcv., xcvi.

The beach above pictured is now the property of the Columpo Bay Land Company; offices at Santa Fe, Isle of Pines.

THE Isle of Pines is situated between longitude 82° 24′ and 83° 14 west, and latitude 21° 28′ 15″, 21° 58′ north. It is some fifty miles directly south of Cuba at that island's narrowest part. The surrounding waters are the Caribbean Sea, pleasant as an inland lake, and still variegated in color as they were in that June of long ago when the First Admiral's inexperienced sailors grew alarmed to see an ocean now green, now white, and again dark as though ink had been spilled into it.

An elevation of less than 50 feet would establish land connection between Cuba and the Isle of Pines, and doubtless this was the condition prevailing ages ago; but far back in eras the geologists only know by name, the smaller Isle "cut loose,"—in other words, "there appears to have been no connection between the forces which produced the metamorphism in the older rocks in the two islands, for the structural axes in the Isle of Pines are almost exactly at right angles to those in Pinar del Rio, the nearest part of Cuba."

C. Willard Hayes, T. Wayland Vaughan, and Arthur C. Spencer, geologists, Report on a Geological Reconnoissance of Cuba, made under the direction of General Leonard Wood, Military Governor, 1901.

The area of the Isle of Pines is estimated at 900,000 acres.

G. R. Fortescue, special agent Armed Forces, general report on the Isle of Pines, February, 1908. (Manuscript).

Two indentations, slightly nearer its southern than its northern coast, the one on the east being Boca de Cienaga (Swamp's Mouth) and the one on the west Ensenada de Siguanea (Siguanea Bay) are united by a broad swamp (Cienaga de Lanier) fourteen miles long and from one to three miles wide. This marsh divides the Isle into two. Only a very narrow strip of coral rock, submerged ten months in the year, joins the component sections.

Ibid.

The southern portion, containing some 300,000 acres of the Isle's entire area, is locally designated as "The South Coast." It is a wilderness. There nature set the stage for dramas of piracy and smuggling. Legend has it that the South Coast is the shore of the real "Treasure Island."

Ibid.

Its early name seems to have been *Punta del Este.*

Approached from the seaward, or south, this coast is a ledge of rock running parallel with a sandy beach which varies from no width to a mile or more. In some parts the ledge is missing for a considerable distance; but the general character of the coast is a combination of cliff and sand. Channels lead through the ledge here and there, into small bays or coves. Some of them are protected from the full force of the sea by coral reefs awash, past which, in best of weather, only experienced pilots who know those rocks and shoals dare bring the light draught schooners entering to load hard wood, particularly tobacco poles. These find ready sale in neighboring ports of Cuba proper, especially those of Pinar del Rio Province.

G. R. Fortescue, S.A.A.F., Report on the Characteristics and Depths of Siguanea Bay, Isle of Pines. 1908.

A dim trail, parallel to the coast line, leads through the jungle there. It is impassable for animals and difficult for man. In the interior, where great mahogany and cedar trees grow in scant, rich soil among jagged rocks, the timber-cutters have made a few short, fairly good roads, from camp to camp and thence to port.

The northern shore of this South Coast is washed by Siguanea Bay; it is edged with a tangled mangrove growth and dotted all along with keys.

The mangrove burns into the best of charcoal, and charcoal-burners from Cuba frequent the western coast of the Isle especially.

The people,—some eighty families,—who live in the weather-grey huts clustered into the few towns (so-called) on the seaward shore of the South Coast are, for the most part, *caimaneros*,—mulatto and black natives of British islets some hundred and fifty miles still further south. They speak English. There is one settlement almost entirely Cuban.

Two-thirds of the South Coast is owned by Americans; the local representative of their interests is a Dane. There are Americans in charge of the timber-cutters' camp.

The timber on this South Coast—hard woods of highly prized varieties—would be of great value could some practical, cheap method be carried out to cut and forward it to market.

Those who have examined it are of the opinion that the broken rock of the South Coast contains phosphates valuable as fertilizer.

The topography of the northern half of the Isle of Pines,—600,000 acres constituting the Isle proper,—is simple. It consists essentially of a plain, now almost perfectly level, now rolling in undulations that rarely reach thirty feet above the general elevation of 75 to 125 feet above tide, Along the seashore is a costal fringe of beach sand and mangrove swamps. varying in width from a few feet to five miles, and, in elevation, from tide level to ten or fifteen feet above. This fringe is practically continuous about the Isle, in its northern part, save where two headlands, — Punta de Colombo and Punta de la Bibijagua,—project into the sea.

C. Willard Hayes, T. Wayland Vaughan and Arthur C. Spencer, geologists, Report on a Geological Reconnoisance of Cuba, made under the direction of General Leonard Wood, Military Governor, 1901, page 112.

The streams, few of which deserve the name of rivers, flow in broad shallow depressions with very gentle slopes. Their channels are sharp cut, from 5 to 15 feet in depth. These channels fill when the streams are in flood; during the "dry season" (November to May approximately) the flow dwindles. Some of the smaller streams go dry.

Few, if any, of the streams have flood plains. They usually reach tide

Casas Mountain, showing Marble Cliffs

level some distance from the coast, and toward the mouth they are deep. Navigation is usually impeded, however, by a bar formed of sediment deposited where their waters meet the in-beating sea.

Rising abruptly from the general plain of the country are a few isolated ridges—mountains, by courtesy. The most important of these are the Sierra de las Casas and the Sierra de Caballos, between which the capital town of Nueva Gerona is sheltered; Sierra de la Daguilla, in the south-east, and Sierra de la Cañada, in the west. These ridges are entirely due to differential erosion, being composed of more resisting rocks than those which underlie the surrounding plains. Their contours vary; some are smooth, while others (those composed of marble) are rugged, with precipitous slopes.

Ibid, p. 113.

The height of the Casas mountain, west of Nueva Gerona, is estimated at 945 feet; the height of Caballos, to the east, at 981.

These two ridges (and possibly others in the Isle not yet so carefully examined) are composed of crystalline marble; they constitute the most important mineral resource of the Isle.

G. R. Fortescue, S.A.A.F., Report on the Characteristics and Depths of Siguanea Bay, Isle of Pines (manuscript) 1908.

There are in Caballos beds of fine white statuary marble, and others of inferior grades, still commercially valuable for interior finishing and outdoor work. The colors vary from the pure white to dark grey, and in some cases there is a strongly marked banding. Both the coarse and fine-grained stone appear to be remarkably free from cracks and flaws; slabs of any desired dimension could doubtless be obtained. There are beds from five to twenty feet in thickness so that the size of the block to be quarried would be limited only by the purpose for which it was wanted. The conditions for quarrying are exceptionally favorable. No stripping or other dead work would be required, and the stone could be utilized from the surface of the quarry. Channelling machinery could be used and the rock worked in horizontal courses, if desired.

C. Willard Hayes, T. Wayland Vaughan and Arthur C. Spencer, geologists, Report on a Geological Reconnoissance of Cuba, made under the direction of General Leonard Wood, Military Governor, 1901.

The marble beds of Mount Casas across the Casas Valley from Caballos have not been more than sampled.

No report is at hand regarding the composition of the Daguilla Mountains in the south-east, or the Cañada Mountains (approximate height 1,507 ft.) in the west.

In the Sierra de la Siguanea, where Lanier Swamp meets Siguanea Bay, in the south-west, siliceous schist containing very pure brown hematite is found. Masses of this ore are scattered over the surface in considerable abundance, but no veins of workable size were observed, the largest being only a few inches thick. What material has weathered to the surface is too siliceous to be used. Nevertheless, while no deposits of iron ore commercially available have been located, so far as yet known, indications are favorable for the existence of such deposits, especially in the west.

In some places, as at Santa Fe, and in the Valley of the Mal Pais River, there are deposits of manganese ore which may, some day, prove valuable. The mineral presents considerable variety, and thorough prospecting is necessary to determine its quantity and quality.

Meanwhile, between the mountains lie the plains, minerally valuable in road material: namely, *mal pais* gravel, which covers by far the larger part of the Isle's flat northern surface, in iron-stained pebbles of varying size; Santa Fe schist, rare save along the water courses, and the dark-grained Daguilla schist, found on the flanks of the mountains of that name. This diorite is admirably adapted for macadam. Wherever *mal pais* gravel forms the surface excellent roads are made by simply clearing a way, ditching and crowning the surface.

Wherever beaches occur about the northern portion of the Isle, they are of sharp, white quartz sand. This is an excellent sand for building purposes and for making artificial stone. It is also adapted for marble cutting.

It is possible that shortly in the shape of "return cargoes" these building materials, so abundant in the Isle of Pines, taken along with the hard woods of the South Coast, may assist the settlers on the Isle to solve one phase of their serious problem of transportation—that of reducing shipping expenses.

Ruins of the Old Marble Quarry

C. Willard Hayes, T. Wayland Vaughan and Arthur C. Spencer, geologists, Report on a Geological Reconnoisance of Cuba, made under the direction of General Leonard Wood, Military Governor, 1901.

See also *Geografia de la Isla de Pinos*, etc., by Lanier.

"Besides the advantages offered by the lands to the industrious agriculturist, they hold out equal inducements to the active manufacturer," declares Dr. Luz Hernandez in his Memoir on the Salubrity of the Isle, written in 1856. He calls attention to what is believed to be "carboniferous lands, constituting the plains and even the savannahs (which) abound in yellow and red ochres, and a blue pigment, which latter is found even in the beds of the brooks.

"Besides the preceding, that might so advantageously occupy industry, there are other articles that would afford better returns; for instance, potter's clay of excellent quality, and even porcelain earth may hereafter be discovered."

Actual Expenses

MASON BROTHERS FRUIT COMPANY, who, for about two years now, having been shipping from La Ceiba plantation to sale in American markets, find expenses on grapefruit, per crate, from Jucaro (it would be the same from Nueva Gerona) to Havana to be as follows, on a lot, say, of 75 crates. On larger shipments, expenses would be less per crate.

Freight, from Isle of Pines to Regla (in Havana)	$0.09
Dockage (payable to the United Railways at $1.50 per 10 tons, minimum)	.02
Lighterage (in Havana harbor)	.03
Forwarders' charge ($1.50 per shipment)	.02
Total, between Isle and departure from Havana	$0.16

Between Havana and sale in say, New York, various expenses are incurred: a consular invoice is required, freight must be paid, as must primage, duty, entry, and cartage. Unfortunately, commission merchants' statements do not usually set forth these charges in detail. Several are generally lumped together as "freight."

The cost of an invoice varies with the value of the shipment; primage is bulked in with freight and rarely, if ever, appears as a distinct charge on accounts rendered; entry charges fluctuate with the size of the shipment. Duty, at the rate of one cent a pound less 20% preferential, averages .648 a crate; cartage is, in New York, generally, 5c. a box. The usual commission to the selling agent is 10% of the gross receipts.

In papers referring to actual shipments made by Mason Brothers Fruit Company, sales effected (November, 1907) by P. Ruhlman & Co., 261 Washington Street, New York, expenses were, as nearly as the calculation may be made per crate, as follows:

Key-View-By-The-Sea

(ON THE VIVIJAGUA ESTATE)

View of One of Our Beaches

Vivijagua Estate

is on the north coast of the Isle of Pines, near Nueva Gerona. It was formerly a sugar plantation; its rich soils are suitable for Citrus Fruits, Vegetables, Coffee, Cocoa, Tobacco, etc.

The Columpo Bay Land Company

is selling the estate in lots of any size desired.

Correspondence Invited.

OFFICERS and DIRECTORS

B. E. COLLINS, Pres. and Gen. Manager
X. O. WERDER, M. D., Vice-Pres.
A. C. ROBERTSON, JR.,
Secretary and Treasurer

H. H. Robertson, Resident Director
W. H. Kirk, M. D. — Peter J. Kneeling
G. A. Dillinger, M. D. — Ernest Milligan
S. M. Howell, M. D. — George Sheppard

OFFICES AT
SANTA FE, ISLE OF PINES, and
800 Keenan Building,
PITTSBURG, PA.

KORITZKY
NUEVA GERONA
ISL OF PINES
WEST INDIES

HE sells implememts, paints, oils, building materials, hardware, Colt's acetylene generators, and other things

Oil and Gasolene
FOR AUTOMOBILES

"TROPICAL AGRICULTURE and COOKERY"
By MRS. F. R. RAMSDELL
OF COLUMBIA, ISLE OF PINES, (WEST INDIES)
A NEW BOOK
Of service especially to new settlers and their wives
PRICE FIFTY CENTS Order of the Author direct

William R. Hill & Co.
Zulueta St. No. 9 HAVANA, CUBA
Specialties:
ISLE OF PINES LANDS
and
HAVANA CITY REAL ESTATE

NOTICE

All residents in the Isle of Pines who are not receiving **Cuba, Capital and Country** regularly, should apply to the editor, Box 1242, Havana, for three months trial subscription free.

All who receive the magazine are supposed to mail their copies "home," that the "home folks" may learn about the Isle, and western Cuba. Send us names of friends in the north who might benefit by the publication.

Extra copies of the magazine may be had at The Isle of Pines News office, at The Star Shoe Store, and The Appeal office, in Nueva Gerona; at the Appeal office in McKinley; at Wall & Abbott's and the Appeal office in Santa Fe; and of the postmaster at Los Indios. These extra copies arrive late and must not be expected until fully two weeks after copies by mail have been received.

Send the editor notes of interest concerning the Isle,—not news items,—but paragraphs indicative of development and improvement in the community.

Advertise your Isle interests, consulting either the editor in Havana, or the magazine's representative, Mr. F. J. Reed at The News office, in Nueva Gerona.

Make this monthly an authorative organ of the Isle!

THE SHOE STORE

S. M. HOOVER & CO.
NUEVA GERONA, ISLE OF PINES, W. I.
SOLE AGENTS FOR
STAR BRAND SHOES
Gents' Furnishings Isle of Pines Souvenirs

On a lot of 60 boxes of grapefruit:

Entry into New York	.041
Duty	.648
Freight, etc., Isle of Pines to N.Y.	.5024
Cartage	.05
Commission (on this particular lot)	.2790
Total per crate from Isle of Pines through sale in New York	$1.5205

On a lot of 80 boxes of grapefruit:

Entry into New York	.0625
Duty	.648
Freight, etc., Isle to N.Y.	.52
Cartage	.05
Commission (on this particular lot)	.367
Total per crate from Isle of Pines through sale in New York	$1.64

Striking an average between these two shipments, selected at random for study, it is deduced that the expense per crate incurred by grapefruit from Isle of Pines through final sale in New York is $1.58, (including 16c expenses from Isle through Havana as shown in first table).

The two shipments especially considered in drawing up the foregoing tables sold well. The following is the statement rendered by Messrs. Ruhlman & Co., concerning the lot of 60 boxes:

5	boxes of	grapefruit	$4.50	each	$22.50
4	"	"	4.00	"	16.00
2	"	"	3.50	"	7.00
2	"	"	3.25	"	6.50
2	"	"	3.00	"	6.00
39	"	"	2.50	"	97.50
6	"	"	2.00	"	12.00
Total, or gross receipts, from shipment,					$167.50

When on the ISLE OF PINES
call at the
Pioneer Grocery
in NUEVA GERONA
An American Store for the American People
A. L. GREIDER & SON

J. A. MILLER

.. Real Estate ..

Nueva Gerona, - Isle of Pines, W.I.

Santa Ana and Cuchilla Alta

Estates

Citrus Fruit Lands and
Winter Home Sites

The average receipt per box in the case of this shipment was, then, $2.791. Deducting from this the sum of $1.58, the net return to the grower, per box, in this particular instance, seems to have been $1.21.

Prices brought by the lot of 80 boxes above mentioned, were as follows:

5	boxes	of	grapefruit,	46,	@ $3.50	$17.50
1	"	"	"	54		4.00
19	"	"	"	64	5.00	95.00
3	"	"	"	64	4.00	12.00
6	"	"	"	64	3.75	22.50
20	"	"	"	80	3.25	65.00
4	"	"	"	80	3.00	12.00
7	"	"	"	96	3.50	24.50
15	"	"	"	96	2.75	41.25

Total, or gross receipts, on shipment $293.75

Average receipt per box in this instance, $3.67. Deducting (see third table above) $1.64, which was the average expense per crate, net return to the grower on this shipment was $2.03.

From this, of course, must be paid all cost incurred prior to laying down the fruit at the port of departure from the Isle. Nevertheless, there is profit in the business.

The foregoing figures may not read as entrancingly as do some colonization prospectuses. They are no desk-made calculations of potentialities, drawn up by company officers whose business is to get rid of land; they are the hard and fast reckonings of a fruit company which has shipped, and of commission merchants who have sold. They are, in short, facts.

Cable Address: "Holly"

ROBERT E. HOLLINGSWORTH

Counselor at Law

MERCADERES 22 HAVANA, CUBA

Corbin House

SANTA FE, ISLE OF PINES

Mrs. A. W. CORBIN, Prop.

¶Furnished rooms for light housekeeping. Rates reasonab e, accommodations first class. Accommodations are limited. Write for full particulars, etc., and reserve accommodations here before you leave the States.

ISLE OF PINES STEAMSHIP COMPANY

Nueva Gerona, Isle of Pines

C. V. ALLNUTT, Manager

FALL AND WINTER CHEDULE:

Sails from Batabano every MONDAY, WEDNESDAY and SATURDAY on arrival of special train leaving Villanueva Station, Havana, at 5.50 P. M.

CAÑADA LAND AND FRUIT COMPANY

LOS INDIOS ISLE OF PINES

Owners Cañada and Los Indios Tracts...

LOCATION: SIGUANEA BAY

THE DEEP WATER HARBOR OF THE ISLAND

Write for prospectus and further information to our general office:

MARINETTE - WISCONSIN

Are YOU Interested in The Isle of Pines?

The only proper way to get a correct idea of any section is to read the papers printed there. THE ISLE OF PINES NEWS is the only paper printed on the Isle of Pines and it gives regularly every Saturday an accurate synopsis of the week's events all over the Isle. It is absolutely independent of all land companies or corporate interests and is subscribed for and read by practically all of the American residents of the Isle. It aids inquirers in search of facts about the "Gem of the Carribbean."

THE NEWS is $2 per year, postpaid, to any part of Cuba or the U. S.; 50c additional to Canada.

Ask us anything about the Isle at any time; we will answer.

TRIAL SUBSCRIPTION.—In order to introduce The News, a trial subscription of seven weeks will be accepted for 25c, coin or money order; do not send stamps, as we cannot use them. ¶Address

THE ISLE OF PINES NEWS

F. J. REED, Editor and Proprietor

Nueva Gerona, ... Isle of Pines, W. I. (Cuba)